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~~SECRET~~~~EXCISE~~

November 1, 1968

TS authority to:

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DAILY SUMMARYCuban eventsWashington Embassy Reports

By report of October 31 Embassy stated; 1) Speculation within Cuba widely varied as to events past week and future Cuban courses action with everyone waiting for Fidel Castro set official line by speech tonight; 2) war psychosis had seized large part populace and reactions ranged from stoic acceptance nuclear holocaust to belief that United States had backed off before Cuban intransigence; 3) Foreign Ministry officials appeared subdued; 4) Other Cuban bureaucrats displayed a) sensitivity about Cuban exclusion from US-USSR negotiations b) special sensitivity Soviet offer trade Cuban for Turkish based and speculated that a) Cubans might have come to terms with United States under modified leadership and b) if backlash present events did not eliminate Castro, he probably eventually go under due deteriorating economy; 5) Other Cubans believed Castro would reassess his leadership. Resistance groups within Cuba disappointed by outcome events and soon opposition leaders felt United States had deserted them.

By report of October 30 Embassy stated; 1) Recent events have undoubtedly detracted from Castro prestige in Latin America. Nevertheless, he retains measure his appeal to masses; 2) If Castro should meet with any accident, difficult to foresee internal Cuban reactions; 3) Mass populace generally gloomy; 4) media emphasizing U Thant declaration regarding respect Cuba sovereignty.

Soviet and Cuban media

USSR Internal. Press coverage light on October 31 and devoted principally to third country tributes to wise and courageous Soviet decisions. However, Pravda repeats five Cuban demands and notes support of these by peace-loving peoples. Further notes that tension over Cuba not wholly dispelled. United States aggressive acts against Cuba continue.

USSR to Cuba. (October 31) Soviet actions respect to recent events dictated solely by dangers secure universal peace. Short - sighted western politicians should not construe this as sign of weakness. Castro's five demands have support of the forces of peace. Soviet Union still with Cuba and does not decline responsibility for giving Cuba assistance. United States should, therefore, restrain its irresponsible citizens.

Cuba Internal. (October 31) Radio commentators describe U Thant talks useful as establishing MacCuban link and more exactly defining Cuban position. Mikoyan welcomed as old friend. Naval exercises reported as suspended.

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November 1, 1962

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